Shortage of Cooking Gas Cylinders in the Country

137. SHRI JAGADISH JANI:
SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently there had been an acute shortage of cooking gas cylinders in Delhi and other parts of the country.

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor;

(c) whether raids were conducted at the permises of cooking gas agencies in Delhi and other parts of the country to detect hoarding and blackmarketng; if so, with what results; and

(d) what steps have been taken to overcome the shortage and to stop hoarding and blackmarketing of cooking gas cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) A temporary shortage in the supply of LPG refils was reported from certain locations of the country on account of constraints in the availability of bulk LPG, transportation problems and law and order problems.

(c) The details of the results of the surprise checks conducted on the premises of LPG dealers are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The LPG availability is augmented through enhanced indigenous production and imports, to overcome shortages. In order to prevent malpractices, regular and surprise inspections are carried out by the field staff of LPG marketing companies. All complaints received against the LPG distributos are investigated and wherever the charges are established. appropriate action is taken in accordance with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines, and dealership agreement.

Demand for opening of New Gas Agencies in Tamil Nadu

138. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the places in Tamil Nadu wherefrom demands have been received for the opening of new gas agencies;

(b) whether Government have chalked out any time bound programme for sanctioning new gas agencies in the State; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) During 1990 a market survey was conducted at 29 locations (as per statement) in Tamil Nadu to assess the viability of markets for opening LPG distributorships.

(b) and (c) It has not been possible to adopt a time bound programme to sanction new LPG distributorships because of the restricted product availability and the large number of existing distributiors operating below viable levels.

Statement

Location

1. Manaliapuram
2. Udumalpet
3. Kancheepuram city
4. Harur
5. Cumbun town
6. Dindigul
7. Coimbatore
8. Eraiyur
9. Lebbakoodadu
10. Thirubuvanam
11. Kolliajam
12. Chengam taluk